Governors, Members of the Supreme Court, Foreign governments’ agents, special guests, Congress’ members; dear Argentines; this is my first opening of a session, as President and it makes me happy to do this in the context of this optimism that spreads in Argentina at the present. I share this feeling with you, because we have started a new period in our democratic life, plenty of inspiring hope.

And beyond the existent differences and the fact that these differences must exist between different blocs in Congress, we have big coincidences: we want a developed Argentina and we want the welfare of Argentine people.

So, I invite you to focus our energies in how we manage the improvement of our country, how we make education, health and safety better, how we generate employment, how we reduce poverty and bring happiness to all Argentine people.

We have spent years in which the gap between the Argentina that we have and the one we would want to have, has widened. That has led us to annoyance and resentment, always looking for an internal or external enemy or for someone responsible for the lack of those things we deserved. These feelings led us to international isolation, thinking that the world wanted to harm us. These feelings were not useful and only led to an unacceptable quantity of poor people in Argentina, unreliable institutions and a huge but inefficient state. Although there are many laws which recognise several rights, in many cases they are not applied.

Nevertheless, we all know that we are a great country, with high potential, and we are going to improve because of our capacity, talent, creativity and the strength of our people.

But the first thing we have to do is to recognise that we are not in a good position, thought it is difficult to accept. It is the way to get started, looking for the future, a future we all dream about. Today I put forward to you a roadmap which I hope you will feel passionate about, so you will fall in love with the future Argentina that we can attain.

Our government faces an historical year, the year of the bicentennial. I hope all of you will be ready for the challenges.

I want to be clear about the starting point, since we come from years in which the state has systematically lied, confusing everyone and blurring the line between reality and fantasy. Thus, credibility and trust were destroyed. We found a messy and poorly managed state, with broken navigation instruments. Information was withheld, documents are missing, there are no statistics, it is hard to find a single piece of paper.
From 2006 to 2015, the Argentine state collected almost US$694 billion more in taxes than during the nineties. However, more resources did not mean a transformation of our schools, hospitals and did not improve safety either. More resources did not even reduce the structural problems of poverty and destitution.

Due to a lack of planning and responsible long term strategy, added to corruption, carelessness and incompetence, we found a state with not enough capabilities for attending its own duties. We got used to live like this and to find it normal, but it is not.

We cannot tolerate that in a country like Argentina, with so much wealth, children still die of hunger. According to the latest report of the Argentine Catholic University Social Observatory, 29 percent of Argentines are in the poverty threshold and 6 percent live in extreme poverty. In addition, about 42 percent of the population lacks proper sewage, 13 percent have no running water and more than 40 percent has no connection to the natural gas network. The model of social inclusion and growth, both so celebrated by the previous government, led us to poverty and exclusion.

Argentina has been one of the countries with the highest inflation rate in the world in the last ten years. The cumulative inflation rate is approximately 700 percent. The main cause of this inflation was the use of the Central Bank to finance public spending and to service debt, both issuing pesos and spending its reserves. This inflation basically harmed the poorest people.

Even with almost US$ 694 billion dollars of extra income we found a state with one of the largest deficits of its history: seven percent of GDP. We found a delicate fiscal situation, one of the worst in recent decades, due to the irresponsibility of the previous administration. This happened while we experienced one of the heaviest tax burdens in our history. At the same time, the central state concentrated provinces’ resources as never before in the last decades.

Thirteen years ago, in this Congress, former President Néstor Kirchner talked about the importance of “twin surplus”, and more specifically about the importance of government budget surplus.

Paradoxically, we received a Central Bank in crisis. Reserves have dropped to 25 billion dollars from 47 billion dollars since currency controls were established. Argentina has one of the lowest reserves related to GDP in Latin America (6%), while Chile and Mexico have 17% and Brazil has 25%.

We are in a delicate tax situation, it would take some time to fix it, but we are committed to that.

We found a country in debt, infrastructure debt, social debts and development debt. During these years of economic ease we did not save money; on the opposite, we reduced our capital, as many times in the past.

There was much talk of negotiating with the holdouts, also known as “vultures”. Now it will be up to Congress whether or not we put an end to a conflict that has now ran for 15 years. I trust responsibility will prevail over rhetoric and that together we will build the necessary consensus.

Having left this conflict unresolved has cost Argentines dearly and favoured bond holders who got richer. External debt grew to 11 billion dollars from 3 billion dollars. While that debt was growing up, Argentina cancelled its debt with the Paris Club, without previous negotiations to reduce interests and punishments. And the worst part is that we still have a negative grade at the Paris Club.
According to our estimations having not had access to credits has cost Argentine 100 billion dollars and more than 2 million jobs that were not created.

In the last four years, employment did not grow up, because of inflation and the obstacles imposed by the state to people and companies: exchange controls and import and restrictions. Instead of promoting and supporting, the state became an obstacle. 1.2 million workers are unemployed and around 3.8 million people are unregistered workers. This is a great debt our country has. Unregistered work puts workers in a very vulnerable position.

However, public employment grew, without an improvement of the quality of the services provided by the state. They lied to us hiding unemployment behind public employment. Between 2003 and 2015 the number of civil servants grew by 64 percent, going from 2.2 million in 2003 to 3.6 million in 2015. We found a state plagued by patronage, uncontrolled waste and corruption. A state at the service of political appointees that destroyed professionalism in the public sector.

A lot of this can be explained by corruption. We hold 107 spot in the International Transparency Ranking, out of 168 countries, way below Uruguay, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia and Bolivia. Corruption kills, as was demonstrated by the tragedies of “Cromañon” and “Once” and the “death roads”.

We have found several examples of lack of transparency, inefficiency and, in many cases, corruption in each of the government areas.

Corruption cannot go unpunished. We must give all necessary tools to the judiciary so it can work independently but also in an expedient way. We will also reinforce the anti-corruption office, which we found in complete disarray.

More public spending did not mean better public policies. One of the main responsibilities of the state is to watch for the safety of the people. We have found a weak state, with under equipped security forces, badly paid, badly trained and badly treated. A state with little or no preventive or investigative powers.

Almost all security policies of the last period have failed, due to a combination of incompetence and ideological trauma. For this reason, Argentines are afraid and feel unsafe.

The situation matters such as violence, crime, drug trafficking and human trafficking is disturbing, and this is the result of bad policies. Lack of public safety is not a feeling; it is a scourge that has systematically been denied, leading to another type of violence: verbal violence and the feeling that only the state does not care of you but it also disrespects you.

Crime statistics have not been published since 2008. First data that we could find shows that there are about 3.400 murders by year, which represents a rise of about 40 percent since 2008.

Today, Argentina is a prosperous country for drug traffickers. We are a country that receives, transforms, sells domestically and exports drugs to Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, Middle East and to neighbouring countries such as Chile and Uruguay. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs
and Crime, Argentina is the third supplier of cocaine worldwide. Consumption has grown exponentially, driven by a drug trafficking network that feels free to expand.

Our borders are virtually defenceless. Only a 17% is monitored by radar and, in addition, we have a very limited air defence capability. In fact our entire defence system is unattended: planes do not fly, some few ships are operative and the Armed Forces suffer equipment shortages. It will be a task of Justice to investigate whether this situation received by us was the result of negligence or incompetence or complicity.

Public education has severe quality problems and today does not guarantee equal opportunities. While there is an important public investment, it is not displayed into a school based on innovation, demand and merit. All around the country we found schools with severe infrastructure problems, teachers who do not have sufficient training, students who pass examinations but not learn and parents not committed to school.

New universities have been opened and that is very positive, but many of them have been spaces of political activism rather than academic excellence. We found a State that gave little importance to the role of evaluation. In some jurisdictions, where the National Assessment Test was applied, only responded 23% of students. The State did not fulfil its obligation to require that testing be mandatory; nor published the results. Once again, the statistics were concealed.

Public health also has enormous inequalities and structural problems, starting with the PAMI, institution responsible for caring for our dear grandparents. There we found overspend and corruption due to the use of resources for political activism, like in worst times, as in the case of the Hospital Posadas.

Where more decadence we have found is in our infrastructure and the most outrageous is that resources have not been lacking. Many bids were made and a lot of money was spent; however, all our routes, ports, trains and communications are virtually damaged or saturated.

Let’s start with energy: today our country has energy deficit. We were a country that generates more energy than it consumed but we have become a country that must import some of their consumption. This puts enormous pressure on our fiscal resources and generates dependence from abroad. From 2003 to 2014, a stock of reserves equivalent at almost 2 years of oil production and more than 9 years of gas production was lost, which means a loss of U$S 115.000.000. As if it was not enough, the import was made in a frame of corruption, without control or transparency.

The absence of investment incentives was mainly in the electricity market, both generation and distribution. That is the cause of the outages, which nearly quadrupled from 2003 to 2014. We find a wholesale price of electricity 10 times below its cost and a variety of retail prices in each province, creating a profound injustice to those living in the provinces compared to those living in the metropolitan area. Finally, the development of renewable energy is almost zero, beyond that we have one of the greatest potential in solar energy and wind energy. The physical connection has huge problems due to damaged roads, trains that do not work or work poorly, ports with backward technology, underused waterways and aero-commercial little connectivity; 40 % of the routes are in poor condition, although in the last 10 years the budget for Road Management increased more than 10 times and, after 12 years, the number of routes with safety problems – called “death routes” -
went from 1.000 km. to 3. 400 km. and costs of works were quoted at nearly twice the average of equivalent works in Latin America.

The budget was distributed following political expediency, not a Federal Plan. More than 930 started works were started or semi-paralyzed on December 2015. A debt of over $12.300.000.000 were left. Finish these works, with a 24 month work average, take more than $ 123.000.000.000. It means put in the budget over $ 60.000.000.000 in order to move forward with these planned work. But no, the National Budget approved only $ 22.000.000.000. This abnormal situation was not new; it justifies fictional works and accumulates unproductive expenditures.

The same happened with the railroads: trains communicate productive sectors of 17 provinces, but after decades of neglect and lack of investment, the railway sector was losing competitiveness and this was against the generation of employment. Last year, the Belgrano Cargas Railway touched its lowest record of freight: it transported 2 million and a half tons; it means 3 million tons less than in 2001. For this great fall, only in 2015, we have an estimated loss of $2.025.000.000.

All these problems led our country to a loss of competitiveness and to an increasingly closed and fearful economy. We are in the position 106 among 142 countries in the Global Competitiveness Index of the World Economic Forum. In a globalized world we are forced to compete; competitiveness is not an issue that benefits investors or entrepreneurs, but is key for development, employment and reduce poverty.

I could go on speaking all day long about these matters but I will finish here. I take responsibility to publish all data, area by area, so that all Argentines can know the state in which Argentina was in December 2015.

This diagnosis should not serve to depress even to get angry, must serve to make us aware of the magnitude of the challenge ahead. But above all, to reaffirm that we are better than this, we are better than the life we lead. The Argentineans, together, can achieve overcoming each of these problems. We are not condemned to live badly, to live tense, to live in fear and insecurity. But it’s time to stop comparing ourselves with our worst times, rise up the rod and compare ourselves with all that we can do. That’s the challenge.

In these almost 3 months of term in office we work to normalize our country, facing social, political and economical challenges; also in our link to the world, in our relationship with Justice, in dialogue with governors and dealing with the press. We deliver what we believe is the spirit of democracy.

Democracy is a system of unity and understanding, a mechanism for resolve conflicts, rather than to generate them. It is time to unite Argentines and respect our differences.

The first thing we did was call all the governors without considering if they belong or not to Cambiemos in order to, together, serve emergencies, discuss about the resources, discussed the works that can help us grow. And I want to thank the governors the generosity to accept this new way of working together.

For us, power is not owned by anyone, we really believe in the division of powers. The sense of power is to respect the law and serve the citizen and not be the service of those who govern; we have to be at the service of our people.
Now that the parliamentary year begins, we want to call them to be part of the same team through an active Congress to discuss the laws that look for the best solutions and the best measures for the Argentines. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the military coup, a coup that cemented the darkest time in our history. We use this year to shout all together: "Never more social and political violence".

Democracy is impoverished when the relationship with others is to impose and submit. We want to end the logic of friend or foe. It is true that there are conflicts, but they are part of democracy and of living in democracy, which we must administering using the dialog. The following Argentina will be a country of agreement, meeting, care and good intentions, which I know we share with all Argentines.

The three main challenges are: zero poverty, defeat drug trafficking and unite Argentines.

To overcome poverty we need more work and less inflation, which is what devours the wages of those who have less. My obsession, our obsession is to be more and better jobs and less inflation.

Inflation exists because the previous government promoted it, since thought it was a valid tool of economic policy. We were always against that look; inflation is perverse, destroys not only the purchasing power of the weakest, destroys trust and predictability, promoting speculation and lack of information; inflation was high the last two months, as product of inertia of many years of high inflation and the irresponsible transition which we live. But we are convinced that the inflation will go down to the end of the year.

We must respect the democratic vote Gentlemen, we must respect the vote of the democracy.

But we are convinced that inflation will go down with the passing of the months, because the main measure for that was gradually reduce the uncontrolled monetary issue of all these years and go down the fiscal deficit until we reach zero at the end of the fourth year.

We also want to improve competition and market mechanisms so that no one abuses of their dominant positions or speculates against consumers.

I want to be clear on this: let nobody think we will be tolerant of those companies that want to place themselves above justice.

We will not behave arbitrarily or be bullies as some have been, but will strengthen competition protection and environmental controls, and will fight tax and social security evasion.

We will announce the automatic updating of the amounts of pensions, family allowances and the Universal Child Allowance.

We have increased the non-taxable minimum income by 160 percent, so that income-tax will not be paid by those who shouldn’t; 75 percent of taxpayers who pay this tax will gain between 9 and 22 percent; the specific wage scales will have to be considered by Congress as soon as possible.

We have increased the coverage of family allowances as well as their amounts for those who need them the most: more than 1.2 million children will now be included in this programme and 1.6
million children who were already included will now be getting the highest possible transfers within this scheme.

Between these two measures, only in 2016 we have transferred nearly 50 billion pesos from the state to workers’ pockets. Many of these measures arise from years of listening to the claims of our union leaders.

When I met with them we fully coincided on our diagnoses and the commitments that had to be made. I greatly value their experience and the contribution they can make to the challenge of taking our country forward.

We’d all like to go faster, but we must act responsibly in view of the state of fragility in which we have received our economy.

Fulfilling one of our campaign commitments, we have lifted all currency controls without unleashing any of the calamities that had been predicted.

We have also lifted export restrictions in all primary and industrial sectors, with the exception of those applied to soya, which will be reduced gradually. We removed barriers to foreign trade which hindered the economy and put us in conflict with the World Trade Organization. This will push production and jobs forward in all provinces.

You are aware of the crisis that regional economies had been enduring and that some of them still endure; the measures we took were crucial in getting them going and to create jobs in the provinces; we need to start growing again as soon as possible so decent jobs are created across the country.

To boost tourism and the general economy, we will fulfil our promise to make Aerolíneas Argentinas a well-managed company that will serve the purpose of having a well connected country, without being a costly burden to all Argentines.

We took the first steps to recognising the real state of the energy sector. We know this has affected many, but we acted guided by the principles of equity and sustainability; we equated the situation between the metropolitan region and the rest of the country and put in place a social tariff for those who really need state support.

We’ve been in default since 2002 and in recent months we took the necessary steps to close this chapter. There was much talk of negotiating with the holdouts, also known as “vultures”. Now it will be up to Congress whether or not we put an end to a conflict that has now ran for 15 years. I trust responsibility will prevail over rhetoric and that together we will build the necessary consensus.

Having left this conflict unresolved has cost Argentines dearly. We are building mature, sensible relations with all countries of the world. Globalization is a fact of life and we believe that in addition to the threats and challenges it brings along, it also brings immense opportunities that we must seize. What we did first was to give a signal of the importance of MERCOSUR for us, re-launching talks with Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay.
We were able to restart talks with the European Union to kick-start negotiations between our two blocs. We put an end to pending disputes and debts with Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay and Bolivia, and have also reaffirmed our commitment to democracy and human rights in the region.

I also talked with the presidents of Mexico, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia to promote an agenda of shared work. Additionally, we have restored relations with the United States, France, Italy, UK, Germany and Israel, after years of conflict, differences or sometimes simply negligence.

In the case of the UK, as we talked with Prime Minister Cameron, dialogue does not mean giving up our claim on the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands.

On the contrary, isolation and empty rhetoric push away any possibility of finding a solution.

We have also reaffirmed our strategic relationship with China, dialogue with Russia and with the Arab countries. We want to start working with the African countries and greatly strengthen the relationship with the whole of East Asia.

But to build the Argentina of the XXI century, we must build a state of the XXI century: integrated, efficient, intelligent, transparent, participatory, inclusive and, above all, at the service of the people.

It is to build such a state that we have created the first Ministry of Modernisation of our history, which will work on the basis of five main goals: administrative modernisation, upgrading technological infrastructure, open government, digital government and lastly, a policy to develop human resources and enhance the value of professional careers in the public sector.

Another important goal our government has set out is to defeat drug trafficking, which is the main threat to security. As I spoke with Pope Francis, we must all work together in the fight against this scourge that sickens and kills our children.

We recognised this problem as soon as we took office by decreeing the state of security emergency and we provided for the Homeland Security Council to remain in permanent session. Adhering to the commitment that I shared with all presidential candidates to transfer the Federal Police Metropolitan Security Superintendence to the City of Buenos Aires, we began working to professionalise and specialise our Federal Police in complex crimes and for it to act in the whole country.

There is still a lot to go, but we are changing the trend each day. The challenge of uniting the Argentine people is the most important of all because we need it to realize the goals of zero-poverty and defeating drug trafficking.

All of us have many wounds to heal after many years of being led to permanent confrontation, persecution, clashes and intolerance. It is not through vengeance that we will get over this culture of confrontation, but by strengthening our brotherhood.

Let’s not forget that little more than a year ago prosecutor Alberto Nisman appeared dead in circumstances that remain uncertain but that are slowly starting to clear up. Let’s not forget either the Argentines who were victims of terrorism. We will support the declaration of unconstitutionality of the Memorandum of Understanding with Iran.
We want to know what happened. And that is why we have turned the Special Investigation Unit for the case of the bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community Centre into a Ministerial department. We need truth and justice.

We have also undertaken the task of normalising public media, so they become spaces for pluralism and excellence instead of outlets of government propaganda.

We did the same thing with all culture related media programmes, such as Football for Everyone, keeping it free but managing to lower its cost. We will follow this same path when we launch the public bid next semester.

In addition, we have launched the Belgrano Plan, an ambitious project of historical reparation of northern Argentina. After many decades of obliviousness, we will channel public investment into projects of productive and social infrastructure. The goal is to bring development and jobs to those living in the provinces of the Great Northern region.

I want a united Argentina. This is what I was told by all the Argentines that opened the doors of their homes and their hearts to me, when they shared with me their doubts, their fears and their angst. Like that small farmer, who told me he had to leave his land, because the many obstacles the state had put in his way wouldn’t even let him cover his input costs; or like those men and women who told me they couldn’t make ends meet because of inflation; or like those parents, who couldn’t get to sleep until their children had returned home safe because of the insecurity in which we live.

Clearly, it is hard to listen to these stories and it is sad. But I also heard something else: an overwhelming hope, a conviction that together we will succeed. And so I promised them that I would not forget them, I cannot forget them; I do not want to forget them. It is the central part of my presidency. Every day when I get to my office, I think which injustice we can correct, which inequality we can solve, showing that it is a lie that there were inevitable.

And that is our main problem: that negativity that has led us to think for years it was like this, that corruption was a way of being of Argentines, that poverty is here to stay and it has no solution.

I want to denounce that sad, overwhelming and frustrating vision, because it is not true. Everything can change and we are already changing. So I ask you not to be afraid. Do not be afraid of transformation. We are together, we are together government and citizens; citizens with each other and this president with 40 million Argentines, shaping the team that will change history.

From this reality where we are and do not want to deny but to transform, we will propose an agenda for the future. First, I want to mention an intense agenda to link up with the world, to have an Argentina with a starring role in the debates and processes of the international agenda. Argentina can be part of the solution to global issues such as poverty and income distribution, democracy and human rights, the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking, scientific and technological research, the peace keeping, interreligious dialogue, the promotion of trade and investment and the fight against climate change.
In the latter sense, I ask this Congress to approve as soon as possible all the commitments we made at the last Summit on Climate Change in Paris, showing our deep conviction in the protection of the environment.

Argentina is a country that has everything to give; the world is watching us and step by step we are becoming a place that everyone wants to know, where everyone sees opportunities.

To insert Argentina in the XXI century, everything starts with education. That’s where the future of the future is brewing; therefore, a few weeks ago in Jujuy, Minister Bulrich together with all the provincial education ministers, set an agreement called the Declaration of Purmamarca, which charts the axes of the educational revolution that we want to consolidate. Among other points, the document proposes to implement educational innovation and learning in digital environments, new technologies and progressively incorporating a longer school-day, through educational, artistic and sports activities.

In this Declaration, it was also included the need to advance in a mandatory education from the age of three; the first years of life are crucial for development. Therefore, we will present a bill for universal education for initial level starting at three years old.

The other bill, which I consider capital for our future, is the creation of the Institute for Quality Assessment and Educational Equity. To improve the quality of education we have to evaluate, we must know where we are and give hierarchy to the role of the teacher. Thus, improving public education and deepen science and technology policies, we will be bringing us closer to a society of knowledge.

The future of our country, stands on that added value that can be generated from research, development and the transfer of technology, creativity, thinking and innovation. But we need to ensure that all Argentines can become part of this reality.

We will also work so that in four years, the smallest and far away village could get access to the Internet with the same technology, speed and quality than in other countries. Today this is a basic right, a central need to develop an economy of knowledge and innovation.

To care for those who have less, we will propose a VAT refund for products of the basic food basket.

We have extended family allowances and we will propose expanding the Universal Child Allowance to reach more children.

In addition, I pledge to work that in four years all children receive a universal income to childhood, a bill authored by MP Elisa Carrió.

I hope that in the coming months we can move forward in finding consensus to achieve a unified and transparent model that covers all children.

All senior citizens will also be a priority for us; the enormous amount of pension lawsuits, mark a debt that has not yet been settled. We must work together to build the path that allows us to
normalize the outstanding and at the same time, give shape to a sustainable response to the demand of pensions representing 82 percent of salary.

We need to change the trend in the fight against drug trafficking; that will require many legislative changes which I hope the Congress could deal with the speed and seriousness needed. Projects such as the reform of the Criminal Procedure Code, the strengthening the Federal Justice, the law of the repentant and confiscation of assets from organized crime, must be among the priorities of this Congress.

To gather all Argentines together, we need to strengthen our institutions, we must strengthen as well transparency and supervisory bodies. For that purpose, we will promote the rapid enactment of the law on access to public information, which, together with the policy of open government, we can have a State that is transparent and open to collaborate.

We also need a new law on public procurement and suppliers in order to improve efficiency and put an end to corruption.

We will promote reform of Justice to strengthen its independence and improve its functioning; we need to regulate surrogacy judges, reform the Judicial Council and the organic laws of Public Prosecutions, the Public Defender and the Judiciary.

I also ask you to advance in the appointment of judges of the Supreme Court as in order to normalize their operation soon as possible.

There has been a broad consensus that we cannot continue voting as we did in 2015. So, this year that marks the 100th anniversary of the election of Hipolito Yrigoyen, first president voted in free elections, we will promote an ambitious political reform. We already met with all political parties and we found consensus on major areas: end of the ballot paper, make control more independent and unify the electoral calendar. I hope this issue of building consensus and agreements shows how we have improved in institutional development.

We must unite on this agenda for growth regardless of the political party to which we belong. We must work together to care for Argentines.

I want a country where equality does not mean uniformity. I believe in inclusive diversity. I think everyone has the right to think freely and I want that, in this country, everyone can choose among different options with a State that encourages that.

But I also want to tell you today that, definitely, we have to move away from the misunderstood “viveza criolla” (local quickness to take advantage), always searching the shortcut; we need to commit to teamwork, we must remember what we were taught by our parents and grandparents: the culture of work and effort, that effort that dignifies, that elevates your self-esteem, the responsibility that moves you away from dishonesty and improvisation. That responsibility has to lead us to understand that we cannot sit and wait for someone else to solve our own problems, that we can do it through our effort.
I remember someone once told me that I am an engineer building bridges and I liked that metaphor. I wish I could tell you today that I will build a huge bridge that lead from all frustration and bitterness of the past to the joy of building this wonderful future.

But that bridge is not a work of an engineer or a single person, that bridge should be built by all of us together or it will never be done.

Which is the country I am dreaming of? A country that doesn`t lie you, a country that takes care of you, a country where people do not surrender, a country that is growing and helps you to grow, a country that stimulates personal and family development, a country that calls to make your personal adventure.

And I am here in good faith, with the best intentions, not wanting to be right, without resentment or bitterness, to propose a you a growth path, a growth project. And I am open to receive all the improvements that you have to introduce. I want the best from you to give the best to all Argentines.

I know that so many times, we Argentines, have been promised so much but so little has been accomplished, that it is hard for us to believe.

But I tell you that I’m not going to lie, these changes are not made from one day to the other. These transformations, these huge transformations are carried out in small steps, day after day. But the good news I have for you is that we already began to take those small steps and..., because we can, of course we can!

And so I invite everyone, absolutely everyone to share these challenges, knowing that we will be able to carry them out.

And saying this, I declare formally inaugurated the ordinary sessions of Congress.

Thank you.